

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-27 were presented. By this amendment, claim 2 is amended and claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 24 and 26 are canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 2-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17-20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 4-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17-20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 is noted and appreciated. Claim 2 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 2 is rewritten to include all limitations of base claim 1. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, and is therefore allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Iwamura et al. (USP 5,966,449). In response, claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 24 and 26 are canceled, without prejudice.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 

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